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WATFORD



Annual Report

ON

Health, Sanitary Conditions


ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1941, BY

William J. Cox, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health. Medical Officer Maternity
and Child Welfare Scheme, Medical Superintendent of
Watford Joint Isolation Hospital. Assistant School
Medical Officer, Herts. County Council.

INCLUDING REPORT ON
WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital,

Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme :—

WILLIAM J. COX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health :—

THOMAS G. OSLER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant Medical Officer (for Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics) :—

WINIFRED PIGGOTT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.

Assistant Medical Officer (for Wiggshall and North Watford Centres and also for Pre-School Clinic and Immunisation Centre) :—

MARGARET WARD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Dental Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre :—

SIDNEY W. FISK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

R. V. JACOB, M.S.I.A., CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

*Deputy, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector :—

G. A. HILLER, M.R. SAN. I.

CERT. R. SAN. INST. (Meat and Foods).

" " " " (Sanitary Science).

*District Sanitary Inspectors :—

R. JOHNSON, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

J. GREEN, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

E. AVISON " " (Meat and Foods).

Inspector under Shops Act :—

A. CORKE.

Health Visitors :—

MISS D. BROWN, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS ELSIE F. POTTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS M. ROBERTSON, S.R.N., S.C.M.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS G. K. MARSDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

Clerks :—

MRS. D. READING (temporary).

(Public Health) R. A. SMITH (on active service).

(Maternity and Child Welfare) Miss G. M. BROADHEAD.

Miss M. TRAVIS.

* Denotes salary contribution made by Exchequer grants.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—5,275 acres.

†Population to Mid-year 1941—72,950 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses—13,453 (Census, 1931).

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books, December 31st, 1938, was approximately 18,000.

Number of families or separate occupiers—14,799 (Census 1931).

Rateable value—£630,438 (March 31st, 1941).

Sum represented by a penny rate—£2,530 (April 1st, 1941).

† Civil population only.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1941.

After correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar-General

		Total	M.	F.	Total Births 1006
Live Births	Legitimate	940	468	472	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13·8.
	Illegitimate	56	30	26	
Stillbirths	...	36			

Deaths 801

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10·9.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	0·00
Other puerperal causes	1	0·9
Total	1	0·9
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—		
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	...	55·06
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	118
„ „ Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	11
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	6

The above figures indicate no unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF WATFORD.

The Registrar General's estimate of the total civil population of Watford at Mid Year 1941 is 72,950, and this figure has been adopted for compiling our local statistics. This figure is exclusive of military population.

BIRTH RATE.—The number of births in the Borough of Watford during the last year after correction for inward and outward transfers was 1,006 compared with 1,014 in 1941. This gives a Birth Rate of 13·8.

This Birth Rate is less than that of the whole country for 1941 which was 14·2.

STILL BIRTHS.—Thirty-six still births were notified during the year compared with 42 in 1940. This gives a rate of .49 per 1,000 population as compared with .51 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths for the Borough after allowing for outward and inward transfers is, according to the Registrar-General's Return, 801 as compared with 807 in the previous year.

This gives a *Death Rate* of 10.9 per 1,000 from all causes as compared with 11.7 in 1940. It compares favourably with London's Death Rate of 12.9 and that of the whole country, which was 16.3 per 1,000.

The following table gives a complete list of deaths from all causes.

TABLE B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Male.	Female.
All Causes...					387	414
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...			—	1
2.	Measles	...	...	...	—	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	6	5
5.	Diphtheria...	...	...	...	2	3
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	4	9
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	2	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...			23	15
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...		2	2
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	3	1
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...		60	58
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	—
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...		—	—
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	81	113
17.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...		22	46
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...		15	14
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	20	30
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	14	22
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...		4	3
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	12	3
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...		4	2
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	3	1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	...	...		—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...		13	17
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...		13	11
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...		—	1
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	16	9
32.	Road Traffic, etc....	...	...	...	15	9
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	4
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	13	7
35.	All other causes	...	...	...	37	28
36.	Causes-ill-defined or Unknown	...			—	—

INFANT DEATHS.—Under the age of 12 months. These number 56, giving an *Infant Death Rate* of 55.06 per 1,000 births. The Infant Death Rate of Watford is lower than that of London which is 68 and the whole country which is 59.

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) HOME NURSING AND MIDWIVES.

THE WATFORD AND DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION has its headquarters in Alexandra Road.

An annual grant to the Society is made by the Watford Corporation.

MIDWIVES. — The Herts. County Council is the supervising authority for Midwives, whose services may be engaged from the Home in King Street. In addition there are four midwives in private practice in the Borough.

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Diphtheria swabs from the Borough are sent to the Peace Memorial Hospital for examination; also certain other pathological specimens. Swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital for K.L.B. and haemolytic streptococcus are also examined there. The pathological work at this hospital has recently been greatly extended under Sector IV of the new Emergency Medical Service.

(c) LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.

For these lists see previous Annual Reports. No further Acts have recently been added to the list.

(d) MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

The Stanboroughs Maternity Home has ceased to exist since the war time changes at this Institution. The accommodation in Watford is now as follows: King Street Hospital, 25 beds, and Watford P.A.I., 31 beds.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from puerperal pyrexia during the year 1941 and one from "other puerperal causes". This gives a maternal mortality of 0.9 per thousand births for Watford.

(f) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

In addition to Motor Ambulances in use at the Isolation Hospital for removal of infectious cases, there are also the Corporation Ambulances provided in co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade. These Corporation ambulances now form part of the fleet of ambulances used for A.R.P. and are under the direct control of the Medical Officer of Health.

(g) **CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**

These are the same as in pre-war years with the following additional units :—

- (1) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Stanboroughs.
- (2) Ante-Natal Centre, Stanboroughs.
- (3) Additional Clinics for Diphtheria Immunisation.
- (4) Child Guidance Clinic.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from three sources, as described in last year's report.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1941

The usual routine work has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year and the necessary action has been taken as far as possible to remedy nuisances, sanitary defects or contraventions of the various Acts coming within the jurisdiction of the Public Health Department.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936

Regular inspections have been made and action taken where any infringements were noted, with satisfactory results.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

An Annual Statement of particulars about this work is required by the Ministry of Health and the particulars are as follows :—

1. Premises dealt with for bugs, Public Health Department	47
Premises dealt with for bugs, Corporation Housing Department	8
	—
	55
	—

2. The methods employed were as follows :—

- (a) Removal of woodwork.
- (b) Burning by blowlamp to kill eggs.
- (c) Application of germicidal liquid by brush and spray. Zaldecide is used for this purpose.

3. The methods employed to ensure that the belongings of tenants were free from vermin before removal to Council houses were as follows :—

Belongings were examined and destroyed where necessary, new materials being provided in some cases.

4. The work of disinfestation was carried out by private owners with assistance and supervision by the Public Health Department.

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS EXAMINED

Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
8,292	33,690	6,129	4,859	52,970

Condemned as unfit for Human Consumption

16,440 st. of Meat (home killed and imported) including :—

- 125 Beasts.
- 47 Sheep.
- 60 Pigs.
- 18 Calves.
- 6,499 st. of Offal (Organs, etc.).
- 114 st. Fish.
- 96 Rabbits.
- 8 Fowls.
- 827 lbs. Canned goods.
- 1,624 Eggs.
- 516 Sundry Articles.

(a) MILK.

During the year 54 samples of milk were taken and all proved satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

There are three licensed Vendors of Tuberculin Tested milk in the Borough and one licensed apparatus for the pasteurisation of milk.

DIPHTHERIA.—Forty-seven cases occurred with 5 deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Fortunately the Borough of Watford is in a district where diphtheria cases are less numerous, and outbreaks of this disease are less frequent than in certain other districts where this disease appears to be more or less endemic. It must not be argued from these facts that immunisation against diphtheria is unnecessary in Watford, as there is always the danger of importation of the disease from other districts. A vigorous campaign has therefore been carried on to obtain as much protection as possible amongst the younger section of the population. Dr. Margaret Ward has continued her clinic for pre-school cases and in addition much work has been done in the schools and also at the Harebreaks First Aid Post and in the Hut on Fridays (morning and afternoon). The number of cases dealt with has been as follows:—

	1st Injections	2nd Injections	Total
At the schools ...	1,373	1,256	2,639
Wiggenhall Clinic ...	298	275	573
Harebreaks Clinic ...	652	637	1,289
The Hut (Friday) ...	1,102	1,090	2,192
The Hut (Wednesday)	1,048	1,756	2,804
	<hr/> 4,473	<hr/> 5,014	<hr/> 9,487

The total result is that 5,014 cases have been completed during the year. Much assistance has been given in the campaign by the Ministry of Health Laboratory, A.R.P. workers, Health Visitors and School Nurses. Some of the head teachers have also helped very considerably. The above figures do not include the work carried out by medical practitioners in their private practice, but no doubt these would amount to several hundred cases more. Dr. Osler was responsible for the work in the schools.

With regard to dosage, a first dose of 0.3 c.c. is given, followed after an interval of four weeks by a dose of 0.5 c.c. The prophylactic used is Alum Precipitated Toxoid supplied by the Ministry of Health.

WHOOPING COUGH Injections (preventive and curative): 65. This work was carried out by Dr. Margaret Ward.

ERYSIPELAS.—Twenty cases were notified as compared with 17 in the previous year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—Nine cases were notified. No death occurred from this disease but there was one death from "other Puerperal Causes."

PNEUMONIA (which includes primary pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia).—Sixteen cases were notified. This notification is of some value at times when influenza is prevalent, in order to show the extent of the epidemic, and also the number of serious cases.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—The usual seasonal incidence of these diseases occurred, resulting in one death from measles and eleven from whooping cough. A hundred and ninety-three cases of whooping cough were notified and 1,300 cases of measles.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—Twenty-five cases of this disease were notified, with 2 deaths. All cases were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, the low death rate being due to improved methods of treatment by chemo-therapy.

INFLUENZA.—A comparatively mild type of this disease was prevalent in 1941 which caused 13 deaths.

VENEREAL DISEASES are dealt with by the County Council. A clinic for Watford has now been opened at Shrodells Hospital. The times of attendance are as follows:—

Men.—Tuesdays, 5 - 7 p.m.; Fridays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Women and Children.—Mondays, 5 - 7 p.m.; Fridays, 10 - 12 noon.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1941—BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	20	5	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	146	131	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	47	41	5
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	11	11	1
Cerebral-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	25	25	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	9	—	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	16	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	1,300	34	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	193	25	11

TABLE E shows that one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified, which was treated with satisfactory results.

TABLE E.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases			Vision Unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	At Hos- pital				
One	One	Nil	One	Nil	Nil	Nil	

TABLE F shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths from this disease.

TABLE F.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	1
15	...	...	1	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
20	...	...	—	7	—	1	1	2	1	—
25	...	...	6	4	—	—	5	5	—	—
35	...	...	12	8	—	—	2	2	—	—
45	...	...	6	6	1	—	4	—	1	—
55	...	...	7	2	1	—	7	1	—	1
65 and upwards			3	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
TOTALS	...		35	35	6	1	22	11	3	2

Of the 38 cases who died from tuberculosis, all were notified.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. It was not found necessary to take action under the powers given by either of these. There is only one cowshed in the Borough at which none of the workers suffers from pulmonary tuberculosis. With regard to compulsory removal to hospital of persons in an infectious state suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, up to the present time no cases have arisen where removal was so urgently necessary as to justify the exercise of compulsion.

VISITS TO TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.—These are paid by the Health Visitors of the Borough. The object of the visit is chiefly to ensure that precautions against infections are taken, to advise about general care of the health, and to ascertain whether home and sanitary conditions are satisfactory. During the year 435 visits of this nature were paid. There are several shelters in use by patients in the Borough.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

The following is a list of activities carried out under the scheme in the shape of clinics and centres.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road—Tuesdays.

Wiggenhall House—Fridays.

Balmoral Road Mission Hall—Mondays.

Scouts' Hall, Leggatts Way—Tuesdays.

Stanboroughs—Wednesdays.

The following are also held at 1 St. Albans Road :

Pre-School (Toddlers') Clinic—Wednesdays.

Ante- and Post-Natal Centre—Mondays and Thursdays.

Dental Clinic—1st, 2nd and 3rd Mondays.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held every Wednesday Morning in The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road.

Additional sessions are also being held on Fridays in the Hut and at Harebreaks First Aid Post.

(a) STATISTICS.

The following three tables give statistics of the work, including that of previous years for the sake of comparison:—

I. Visits by Health Visitors.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
First Visits	826	942	987	991	1080	1022	1106	1006
Re-visits ...	3278	2328	4096	2889	4468	4345	4108	3618
Visits 1-5 yrs.	2020	2066	2957	5127	5201	6602	5471	5544
Ante-natal ...	240	195	243	251	220	280	79	153
Tuberculosis, Dental-visits, etc. ...	417	503	589	520	615	741	1023	1551
Total visits	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
paid ...	6781	6034	8872	9778	11584	12990	11787	11872

II. Attendances at the Centres.

Centre.	Weighings.	Consulta- tions.	Number of Infants on Books.	New Cases Examined.
Leggatts Way ...	3,314	713	251	121
The Hut ...	3,767	592	427	262
Wiggenhall House ...	3,922	738	292	179
North Watford ...	5,414	1027	414	253
Stanboroughs ...	4,875	893	327	193
The Hut Toddlers ...	1,240	647	544	362
Totals ...	22,532	4610	2255	1370

III. Other Statistics.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
<i>Ante-natal Clinic:</i>								
Mothers attending	220	298	312	358	374	434	441	525
Total attendances	767	896	866	861	1318	1366	1356	—
<i>Dental Clinic:</i>								
Ante-natal cases ...	34	79	60	47	71	60	83	122
Nursing mothers	50	52	58	81	92	119	116	125
Children ...	135	119	126	127	151	155	182	133
<i>Orthopaedic Centre:</i>								
Cases referred for treatment ...	100	97	99	95	108	111	—	181
<i>Post-natal Clinic:</i>								
Mothers attending	—	48	38	41	77	42	52	40
Number of attendances ...	—	58	59	71	86	77	91	88

ATTENDANCES OF INFANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.—These numbered 2,363. A small grant is obtained from the Herts. County Council for these.

(b) RED CROSS ORTHOPÆDIC CENTRE.

Mr. S. L. Higgs, F.R.C.S., who is assisted by Mr. W. Coltart, F.R.C.S., attends as consultant at the Centre which is held in Queen's Road. At the present time this valuable work is being continued as usual, 181 cases having been dealt with during the last year.

(c) REPORT ON PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC, 1941.

Number of Sessions ...	...	...	...	...	52
Consultations, New Cases	...	...	...	...	366
Consultations, Old Cases	...	...	...	...	310
Consultations, Total Cases	...	...	...	...	676
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	1,240
Cases requiring Special Treatment	...	...	...	...	250
Cases requiring Home Treatment	...	...	...	...	153
Cases requiring No Treatment	...	...	...	...	28
Vaccinated Children ...	...	...	...	...	117

MARGARET WARD, M.B., D.P.H.

(d) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL CLINIC.

DENTAL CLINIC.—A dental clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. The

work is steadily increasing and 380 cases received treatment during the past year. Twenty-eight sessions were held. Eighteen mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets, and in four cases assistance was given by the Council in paying part of the cost.

(e) **INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.**

The Borough of Watford is now responsible for carrying out this work which was formerly done in connection with the old Poor Law Administration. The following figures have been compiled by Miss Brown :—

Number of persons on register who were receiving children
for reward at the end of the year 27

FOSTER CHILDREN

Number on books at the end of the year 30
Number who died during year Nil
Number of inquests Nil
Number of Child Protection Visitors 1
Total number of visits paid 282

IX. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The number of cases admitted during the year 1941 was 487, compared with 404 in 1940, and 283 in 1939. The following table gives the number of cases admitted from each district, and also the total number of cases of each disease.

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES ADMITTED FROM
THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN 1941.**

District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Enteric	German Measles	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Totals
Watford Borough ...	131	41	5	35	11	—	34	27	12	1	297
Watford Rural	41	9	5	3	—	—	4	7	—	—	69
Bushey Urban	11	5	—	5	—	—	2	5	—	—	28
Rickmansworth Urban ...	31	3	—	5	—	—	2	17	3	—	61
Chorleywood Urban ...	7	1	—	—	—	—	9	8	—	—	25
Totals	221	59	10	48	11	—	51	64	15	1	480

Other diseases admitted were as follows : Poliomyelitis 2 (Rickmansworth), Encephalitis Lethargica 1 (Watford Rural), Dysentery 6 (2 Watford Borough, 4 Bushey), 1 Ophthalmia.

Fifteen deaths occurred in the Hospital in 1941 : Diphtheria 3, Whooping Cough 4, Cerebro-sp. Fever 4, Measles 3, Enteric 1.

In addition, the following 4 cases were admitted from districts outside the area of the Joint Hospital Board :—

Hemel Hempstead.—Diphtheria 1.

St. Albans.—Measles 1, Mumps 1.

Bishop Stortford.—Whooping Cough 1.

This brings the total number of cases treated during the year to 494.

A comparatively large number of cases was admitted to the hospital as in the previous year. Scarlet fever was responsible for nearly half the admissions, the cases being mostly of a very mild type and resulting in no death. Diphtheria cases numbered 59, most of the cases being of the mild type. The number of cases admitted with the diagnosis of cerebro-spinal fever was much larger than usual, but fortunately out of a total number of 48 cases only 4 deaths occurred. This low mortality is partly due to the new treatment by chemo-therapy, and also to the fact that 10 of the cases admitted were not true cases of cerebro-spinal fever, but meningismus due to the onset of another acute infection. All these cases yielded a cerebro-spinal fluid containing no meningococci and ran a favourable course with early recovery.

